

MR. WEBSTER AT ANNAPOLIS.

Mr. WEBSTER, as our readers already know, left this city on Monday evening for Annapolis, to partake of a complimentary dinner tendered him by the Members of the Maryland State Convention. He was accompanied by Mrs. WEBSTER.

We learn from the correspondence of the Baltimore papers that he was met at the Railroad Junction by a Committee of the Convention, with whom he proceeded to Annapolis, where a large concourse of persons, including the Members of the Convention and citizens, greeted his arrival and escorted him to the apartments prepared for his reception. During the evening he and his lady were waited upon by a continual throng of ladies and gentlemen, who were cordially received and pleasantly entertained.

The dinner took place on Tuesday evening at the City Hotel, and was a noble tribute by the generous sons of Maryland to a Statesman who, on all occasions, has stood up manfully in defence of the Constitution of the United States and the Union of the States.

Ex-Governor SPRIGG presided, assisted by Ex-Governor GRASON and Gen. B. C. HOWARD, as Vice Presidents. Mr. WEBSTER was seated to the right of the President, with Chancellor JOHNSON and other guests. On the left were Governor LOWE and Ex-Governor PRATT, U. States Senator from Maryland.

After the removal of the cloth, the first toast was "The President of the United States," which was received with much cheering.

The next toast was "The Governor of Maryland," to which Governor LOWE eloquently responded:

"After returning thanks for the honor of the sentiment, he addressed the distinguished guest, and said that he felt this an ordinary occasion. He stood in the presence of the great embodiment of Northern patriotism—in the presence of one who had stood by the Union. As the Executive of Maryland, he declared that Maryland is a Union State, and will be one forever. He had heard of a higher law. He admired, revered, and gloried in the higher law of patriotism, by which men rose above party ties, and stood together for the Union. It was this higher law that made WEBSTER shake hands with CASS in the cause of the Union. (Great applause.) After some further eloquent remarks, he closed with the sentiment of "The higher law of Patriotism, which makes patriots forget, in the cause of the Union, all party ties and affinities."

Gov. SPRIGG then rose to propose the name of their honored guest, taking occasion to remark upon the important services Mr. WEBSTER had rendered the country in the different stations he had been called upon to fill, and saying that he was eminently entitled to all the honors in the power of the country to confer. He concluded by proposing:

"DANIEL WEBSTER: Maryland shows her attachment to the Union by honoring its ablest defender."

The prolonged applause with which this toast was received having subsided, Mr. WEBSTER rose and addressed the company nearly as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT, AND LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I beg leave to assure you that I esteem most highly this testimony of respect. I find myself in the political capital of the loyal, Union State of Maryland—I find myself at a table at which many of the most distinguished men of that State, of all parties and descriptions of politics, are assembled, and it is on that account that I regard this as a particular and striking memorial of respect and honor to myself. But, gentlemen, I am nothing—it is the cause that is every thing. You are pleased to honor me only because I support, so far as my ability will allow, that cause which is so dear to us all, so dear to all good men in the country. It is the cause of Union. It is the cause of the preservation of the States. It is a cause upon which depends the maintenance of all those political associations and principles which have made the United States what they are.

It is not for me to argue the value of the Union in this company. I came here rather to be refreshed and edified by what I have heard of the proceedings of this Convention already. Its resolutions of the 10th of December are to me an expression so powerful, so authentic, and so conclusive upon the judgment of Maryland, that I read them at first, and have read them since, and read them now with undiminished delight. Why, gentlemen, I should no more think of arguing the question of the importance of the Union in this assembly than I should think of going back to argue the propriety of the Declaration of Independence, or to argue the expediency and the glory of having adopted the Constitution under which we live, or of arguing the general utility and honor and renown of Washington's administration. Who doubts all these things here? I am sure not one. I come, then, gentlemen, as a learner, not as a teacher; I come to partake of the sentiments that fill all your hearts; I come to be edified and instructed by those noble and patriotic expressions which have been made in this Convention, formed, as I have said, of distinguished men of all parties, coming together with a unanimous sentiment, and affirming their opinions in favor of the Union, and whatsoever tends to strengthen that Union, by a unanimity which cannot fail to be regarded. Allow me to say, gentlemen, that your resolutions of the 10th of December will reach to the extreme North, the extreme South, and the extreme West, and every body will say that, amidst all the vagaries which may prevail elsewhere, the respectable, and eminent, and distinguished State, the central State of Maryland, is union to the backbone, and thoroughly. [Applause.]

There are associations, there are recollections, which naturally influence the mind of man. I have passed around to-day among scenes which were visited in old times by Washington. I have been in the room where he performed that crowning act of his military life, the resignation of his commission. I remember that he said on that occasion, "Having performed the work assigned me, I now ask the indulgence of my country to retire from public service." Gentlemen, Washington, with all his sagacity, did not comprehend his own destiny. He did not see the long track of influences which were to follow his revolutionary character. Nay, nor when, many years afterwards, he retired from the civil administration of the country, did he then cease to exercise an influence on the public concerns and sentiments of his country. And he never will cease. He said, "having performed the work assigned me, I retire from public service." He has never yet performed the work assigned him, and he never will until the end of time; because, gentlemen, that great and glorious work still remaining, will ever uphold his precepts, his exhortations, and his example—the importance and the value of this Union of the States. [Applause.] In that respect he works now, and will work ever, so long as his memory shall not be effaced from the records of mankind. I think I hear him say to-day, in the language which he expressed when he sent the present Constitution of the United States to Congress, "our great concern has been so to manage all our deliberations, and to come to such a result, as shall strengthen that Union which makes us one people." I hear him say that to-day, and I hear him say further to-day, in the words of his Farewell Address, "Be cautious of all those who, under any pretence whatever, admonish you that you can be happy under a dissolution of the Union." Every exhortation, every admonition, every sentiment that proceeded from him, rings in these times constantly in my ears. Nay, I think I hear him say now, in the shades of the blessed, that, if it were permitted to him, he would revisit the earth, and would be clothed with the bones and the flesh which are mouldering at Mount Vernon. And he would appear to his countrymen at the head of their armies, or as he appeared to the country in the course of his most glorious administration of this Government, and counsel and advise them, by every consideration that

tought to have weight with men: Hold on fast by that Constitution which is the only security for the liberty which cost me and my associates a seven years' war of fire and blood. [Applause.]

Gentlemen, forgive me; when I think in these times that there are so many that are apparently disposed to undervalue the maxims, and the character, and the exhortations of Washington, I confess I find myself borne away, often beyond the power of self-restraint. I fear sometimes beyond the limits of propriety. Our country consists in its liberty; our country next consists in its institutions of constitutional law; and, blessed be God, our country, America, consists next in the great example of those who have gone before us and have left that example. We are not Americans if we resist the examples of our predecessors, any more than if we trample upon the Constitution, the work of their hands. If we have real American hearts in our bosoms, every thing they said and every thing they did to honor and ennoble their country, impresses us with sentiments of profound respect and regard.

Gentlemen, will you allow me to interrupt the course of the few remarks which I had to make to you to-night, by proposing to you, out of the fullness of my heart, "The glorious and immortal memory of George Washington!" [This toast was drunk standing.]

MR. WEBSTER resumed. Mr. President and gentlemen: In the lapse of years, and in the rising of one generation after another, it may very possibly happen, and we are sure that it does happen, and has happened, that the exact principles of the Union of these States are not always properly understood. It may not be amiss, therefore, though I do not propose to entertain this company by discourse upon commonplaces—it may not be amiss to recur now to what I conceive to be the original principle upon which these colonies were united, the objects for which they were united, and the limitation upon these objects. These thirteen colonies, all of English origin, were settled on this continent at different times, and under different circumstances. They had differences of religious opinions; they established differences of local law and administration; they were, some of them, quite remote from one another, but they were all subject to the Crown of England. And when, in the course of events, they all thought, and thought truly, they had just cause of complaint against the tyranny of England, their object was to unite in a common cause against a common enemy. How unite? For what purposes unite? For what ends unite? Why, I never entered into their conceptions that they were to consolidate themselves into one Government; that they were to create to be Virginia, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Carolina. Not at all. But they were united to those great purposes which should enable them to make a stand against the tyranny of the English Government. They were to come to an agreement upon things necessary for that purpose, and nothing else. The objects of common defence, and the common welfare, and afterwards the objects connected with commerce and revenue, which were important to all, were all they adopted as principles and objects of union and association. Nothing beyond that.

As I have said, they had differences of religious opinions. Maryland, your Maryland, was settled as a Catholic country, always tolerant, always liberal, persecuting nobody. Virginia was rather inclined to the religious notions of the Episcopal Church of England. The people of my country, at the North, were not only Protestants but Dissenters. They were of the school of Cromwell and Sir Henry Vane. But what of that? When all their colonies came together for the general purpose of defence against a common enemy, what did they do? Did they seek to merge and confound and consolidate all these States into one great community? No such thing. They meant to unite upon those objects which were necessary for the common defence; and they meant to leave every thing else in the control of the States, to do just as they thought proper. That was a day of liberality and of justice. It was a day in which religious opinions produced no effect upon the general sentiments of the country in regard to the association of all the States for general defence. Why, sir, did any body at the North, did any Protestant descendant of Cromwell, or any descendant of Harry Vane, whoever he was, feel any less confidence in the integrity and entire patriotism of Charles Carroll because he was a Catholic? Not at all. Nor did Maryland hesitate to accord the medal of patriotism, whenever it was due, to the Adamses, to Alexander Hamilton, to Rufus King, or whoever else belonged to the North, because they were of different sentiments in religion. Their association was political. It was founded upon general policy and union, and a sort of confederacy at that time to resist the common enemy and do whatever was necessary for the common good. Gentlemen, I hope, for one, never to see this original idea departed from.

Now, we come to other propositions. There were differences of laws. The Southern States, without their own fault, by a course of events for which they were not responsible, had slavery established amongst them. Did not all the States know that? Did not they deal with them upon that basis? Did not they recognize that state of things? Entirely; entirely. That was a matter of local legislation, of State right and State administration, with which the North at that time had not the slightest inclination to interfere in any respect whatever, and they ought not to have had, because it was one of those things that did not enter into the general scope of that political association which the colonies meant to form.

Gentlemen, I concur in the sentiments expressed by you all; and, thank God, they were expressed by you all in the resolutions passed here on the 10th of December. You say that "the Constitution of the United States has accomplished all the objects, civil and political, which the most sanguine of its framers and friends anticipated, and that the affections of the people of Maryland are justly riveted to its principles by the memory of the characters of the wise and good men who formed it, as well as by the blessings they liberally bestowed throughout the world." That is my sentiment. My heart is in it. [Applause.] Altogether, I live and breathe, I walk and sleep—I had almost said, I prayed to God daily, in the very sentiment of that resolution. Then you go on to assert a sentiment equally just. You say that a proper appreciation of those blessings would lead every State in the Union to adopt all such measures as may from time to time be necessary to give complete and full effect to any provision in the Constitution, or the laws pursuant thereto, intended for the protection of any part of this great common country. True; every word true. And allow me to say, that any State, North or South, which departs an iota from the sentiment of that resolution is disloyal to the Union. [Great applause.]

Further, so far as any act of that sort has been committed, such a State has no portion of my regard. I do not sympathize with it. I rebuke it wherever I speak, and on all occasions where it is proper for me to express my sentiments. If there are States—and I am afraid there are—which have sought, by ingenious contrivances of State legislation, by round-about and crooked courses of policy, to thwart the just operation and fulfilment of the laws of Congress passed to carry into effect the compact of the Constitution, that State, so far, is entitled to no regard from me.

At the North, there have been certainly some intimations in certain States of such policy.

At the South, another danger seems to have arisen; and it is a subject of very serious lamentation to me. It would seem that there is a disposition in some quarters to secede from the Union of these States. "Secede!"—a word of ominous import. Secede for what? Secede from this Government, which has carried the country to such a pitch of glory in sixty or seventy years? To secede from all the honor and renown which it has accomplished? And to secede where? Whenever there is a *terminus ad quem*. Where are they going? [Applause.] Whoever entertains such sentiments I regard with a spirit of commiseration. I think it is a malady of the mind. I think that their feelings have become entirely diseased. I think that they know not what they do. And yet, gentlemen, I do not think it a proof of prudence to criminate, or to taunt, or to provoke. Leave them to their own consideration. Let them dwell on secession many days and inwardly digest it. [Laughter.] And, so far as I have any voice in the councils of the country, this meditation of theirs shall never be disturbed; not a breath shall ruffle their sensibility, until it comes to a point where something is done that comes to an actual conflict with the Constitution. [Applause.]

It is painful when we reflect that a State so highly distinguished, so full of high spirits and cavaliers—a State which took such an active part in the revolution, and which took such an active part in the early administration of the Government—which has produced so many men who have honored the country, and honored themselves in the public service; that

it is painful, I say, and humiliating, to consider that their successors, the present generation, seem willing to forget the whole glories of their country, to take one stripe and one star and go out of the Union with them. [Laughter.]

A returning sense of patriotism and propriety will check them. I do not know what might happen if there had been a more general spirit of disunion. I cannot persuade myself that honest and honorable men, ingenious men, young men who wish to live for glory, and renown, and character, will ever leave that Union which their fathers established, that Constitution which has made their State, like all the other States, what it is, when they come to sober moments of candid reflection.

I hope that while we maintain, as the State of Maryland has maintained, fixed and determined sentiments in favor of the Constitution, we will hold no parley—and I hold no parley—with any body who would infract it in the slightest degree. While we maintain the necessity of establishing and sustaining those laws of adjustment which were passed by the last Congress, to settle the country—while we hold on to them with firmness and decision, I hope, nevertheless, we shall take a course not to provoke, or taunt, or insult those who feel a difference of sentiments. I hold the importance of maintaining those measures to be of the highest character and nature, every one of them, out and out, and through and through. [Applause.] I have no confidence in any body who seeks the support of any body who wishes to alter or modify these constitutional provisions. There they are. Many of these great measures are irrevocable. The settlement with Texas is as irrevocable as the admission of California. Other important objects of legislation, if not in themselves in the nature of grants, and therefore not so irrevocable, are just as important; and we are to bear no parleying upon it. We are to listen to no modifications or qualifications. They are passed in conformity with the requisitions of the Constitution; and they must be performed and abided by, in whatever event, and at whatever cost. [Applause.]

His Excellency the Governor of Maryland was pleased to allude to me as one that had run some risks among his own people for the good of the country. What would I have been good for, if I had not been willing to do it? [Applause.] I do not consider myself born to a great destiny, but born to one destiny, and that is, to uphold with mind and heart and hand the Constitution of this country. [Great applause.] If this prophecy may fail, my attachment to the Constitution of the land will never fail, so long as I have breath. [Renewed applause.]

Now, gentlemen, allow me to say, that, in looking over this morning the annals of your beautiful city of Annapolis, I find, what I should expect to find, that when the definitive treaty of peace was proclaimed here in February, 1783, it was ordained to be a day of general thanksgiving. It was celebrated, and, according to the good fashions of Maryland, there was a dinner and a ball. Among the toasts on that occasion, the first having taken notice of the great blessing of the restoration of peace, I find that the second was, "The United States—may their confederacy endure forever." [Applause.] That confederacy has been changed into more beneficial form of government. It has become a Constitution better calculated to secure the rights of us all. But I echo the sentiment of Annapolis, and I say, in different words, though in the same sense, "The Constitution of the United States—may it endure forever." [Great applause.]

MR. MCNEIL, Esq. offered the following toast: "DANIEL WEBSTER, our patriotic Secretary of State: A man who has no other hope than for his country's good—may he wish any 'higher law' than his country's constitution."

MR. WEBSTER briefly responded, and gave the following: "His excellency Governor LOWE."

Governor LOWE briefly responded, and after alluding to the several distinguished Senators and others who supported the compromise, concluded with proposing the health of "Gallant HARRY CLAY." This was received with unbounded approbation.

The following toast was offered: "The Senate of the United States: The rights of the State and the integrity of the Union have a sure protection in its wisdom and firmness."

Ex-Governor PRATT, at present a Senator of the United States, responded to this sentiment, assuring the company that it afforded him very sincere pleasure in being permitted to unite with them in evincing respect for the patriot and statesman who was present as their guest.

The services of Mr. WEBSTER, (said he,) to which you have referred, and which have been the immediate cause of your invitation to him, were services rendered to the whole country, and he is your guest at the capital of Maryland by the invitation (without distinction of party) of the Representatives of the People of Maryland, because his patriotism has not been limited by the State which he has represented, or by the section of country from which he comes. He is, Mr. President, properly here the guest of a Southern State, because the United States is his country—because the United States is the country to which he has declared his allegiance, and devoted all the energies of his vast intellect. I am pleased, too, Mr. President, that the invitation which gives us the pleasure of this meeting, should have emanated as it has, irrespective of party; for, sir, if we may now congratulate ourselves upon the safety of our country, we should ever remember that the threatened danger has been averted by no party, or party men, but by the united efforts of those of the Democratic and Whig parties of the country who have been most trusted and honored by each.

If, sir, a citizen of Annapolis may be permitted to say so, I think the place has been appropriately selected for this meeting. Annapolis, now the capital of the State of Maryland, was, prior to the revolution, not only the capital of the then province of Maryland, but socially, and in point of political influence, was, as your distinguished guest has intimated, the capital of all the British North American provinces. Mr. Webster has referred to some of the historical reminiscences attached to the place, and I beg leave, sir, to refer to others, which I have heard here spoken of, and which I had hoped he would have also referred to. Here, sir, at Annapolis, was held the first Council, composed of delegates from several of the then British provinces, to deliberate and decide upon the necessity of resistance to the encroachments of the Crown. Here, also, if I am correctly informed, (and no one can more readily put me right than the distinguished gentleman before me,) was committed the first overt act of what was then called treason, by the open and forcible resistance of a statute of Parliament; and here, Mr. President, in the Senate chamber this day visited by your guest, occurred one of the most memorable and extraordinary events recorded in the history of the world—the surrender by Gen. WASHINGTON to the civil authorities of that sword with which he had achieved the independence of his country.

I have learned, Mr. President, in the past twelve months, a lesson which this meeting is well calculated to enforce. I have learned, sir, to rid myself of much, I hope of all, that political party asperity which I fear I have heretofore almost cherished to a duty. How, sir, could it be otherwise? I have followed the lead of men of the Democratic party, and stood side by side with them in support of the measures to which you, sir, have referred, and to which, in my judgment, you have correctly attributed the present existence of the Union. And here, Mr. President, I am surrounded by many whose moral and social worth have been always appreciated by me, but with whom I have never acted politically, assembled together to do honor and to express respect for DANIEL WEBSTER. And Mr. President, we may all well unite in paying this homage to such a man; for, sir, if there is a statesman in the United States who may be considered above party, and for whom all may express respect and admiration, that man is DANIEL WEBSTER. Sir, in all questions in which his country is involved, he knows no party. As he himself has said, he was born an American, he has lived an American, and he will die an American.

Permit me, Mr. President and gentlemen, to offer a sentiment, which I know will meet the approbation of your guest, and which I hope will also be favored by your approval. Gentlemen, the time has now come, when the true conservative men of all parties should unite for the sake of the Union. I propose, sir—"THE UNION: We will stand by it who stand by it."

Hon. WM. COIT JOHNSON, prefacing the toast with some appropriate remarks, gave "General Cass and other competitors, patriots, and statesmen." Gen. BENJAMIN O. HOWARD, being called upon to respond to this toast, said that he would not make a speech,

but offer a sentiment which appeared appropriate to the present time and place, and which was elicited by some of the remarks to which he had listened:

"THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA: Before she determines to secede from the Union, and to leave Maryland, may she cast a long and lingering look back to the campaign of 1781."

J. W. CHRISTIE, Esq. offered the following:

"THE CHANCELLOR OF MARYLAND: The enlightened jurist and statesman—he has honored his State by his devotion to his service."

Chancellor JOHN JOHNSON responded to the toast in eloquent terms. He alluded to the occasion of the present assembly, and to the guest whom it was intended to honor. He referred, in glowing terms, to that occasion when Mr. WEBSTER, whilst occupying a seat in the Senate of the United States, and when the compromise measure was under consideration, rose in his place, and in tones of burning eloquence asked his countrymen then and there assembled to "hear him for his cause," and which act of compromise gave rise to this—of doing honor to the distinguished guest. Chancellor J. also referred to the good services rendered by Gov. CASS, Gen. FOOTE, and others, who went into the fight with the determination of bringing out the measures we now enjoy. He also referred, in merited terms of praise, to the active exertions of Senator DICKINSON, of New York, and said if he had had a seat in the Legislature of that State when the late election for United States Senator came on, he would have voted for him in preference to the Whig candidate, if there was any doubt of the orthodoxy of such Whig on the great question of the Union of the States, which he regarded as of paramount importance to any of the political questions of the day. He also referred in eloquent terms to the "Sage of Ashland," and said that on all occasions he had stepped forth as the "great pacificator." When, thirty years ago, the black flag of Africa interposed its front, threatening to sever the Union, Henry Clay came to the rescue and saved it. That great man, on all trying occasions, would ever be found where the blows fell thickest and fastest. The names of those who contributed by their voices and votes to the settlement of the late compromise measures, will live forever in the hearts of their countrymen. He concluded by offering the following sentiment:

"OUR DISTINGUISHED GUEST: When the names of his calculators shall have passed into oblivion, his memory will be cherished as the great constitutional lawyer of his day, unsurpassed in his advocacy of Republican institutions, and of the Union of these States."

Hon. JAMES M. BUCHANAN gave, "The Constitution and its Compromises: On this theme we know no Democrat, no Whig: we are brethren, 'one and inseparable.'"

Hon. A. B. DAVIS proposed "The health of James M. Buchanan, the accomplished representative from Baltimore county—he knows how to forget party when the defender of the Constitution is to be honored."

Hon. G. C. MORGAN submitted the following: "THE JUDICIARY OF MARYLAND: Whatever difference of opinion may be entertained as to its organization, the value of its administration is appreciated and its purity is without stain or reproach."

Judge CHAMBERS briefly responded to this sentiment, taking occasion to allude in very complimentary terms to the patriotic course of Mr. Webster (who had then just retired) in behalf of the Constitution and Union of the States. He concluded by offering the following sentiment, which was received with much applause:

"REFORM, the most thorough 'constitutional reform' to every man who does not himself love, and teach his children and his children's children to love, THE UNION, as the first duty of an American."

Speeches were also made by Col. DANIEL JENIFER, WM. COIT JOHNSON, WM. A. SPENCER, (the latter toasting Mr. FOOTE) and others, when, at an early hour, the company separated, all highly pleased with the occasion which had called them together.

We understand that M. MOLINO, who arrived in this country some weeks ago, was on Monday last presented to the President of the United States in the capacity of Diplomatic representative to this Government from the Government of Costa Rica, and received as such.

THE MILITARY ASYLUM.—A portion of the Military Asylum Board, (including Generals SCOTT, WOOL, JONES, and LAWSON, and Col. LARNED,) improved the pleasant weather of Tuesday last, by paying an official visit to the Heights of Georgetown. They spent a considerable time in examining the place known as Woodley, which contains one hundred acres, and is reputed to be one of the handiwork of Philip Barton Key, Esq., but now the property of Col. Lorenzo Thomas, U. S. A. The Board also visited Linnem Hill, the property of Mr. Pearce.

The submission resolutions reported by the Committee of Thirteen in the Virginia House of Delegates, and based on the resolutions offered by Hon. R. E. SCOTT, have passed that body almost unanimously—Whigs and Democrats, Southern Rights men and Submissionists, all uniting in the most marvellous concord. This is the body which, in 1848, a resolution declaring they would resist, at all hazards, a law of Congress abolishing the slave trade in the District of Columbia. [Southern Press.]

THE STEAMSHIP ASIA sailed from New York for Liverpool on Wednesday with 110 passengers and about \$90,000 in specie.

NIAGARA SUSPENSION BRIDGE.—A few days since the suspension bridge, over the Niagara, from Lewiston to Queenston, was tested in the presence of a large number of persons. Thirteen wagons, laden with sand and stone, passed from each side, meeting in the centre; and at the same time one hundred persons on horseback and on foot passed over. The result was satisfactory to the parties concerned.

THE BRITISH PROVINCES.—The Government facility bill for the construction of the European and North American railway, passed the New Brunswick Assembly on the 20th, 33 to 5. According to the provisions of this bill, the Province is to take stock to the amount of £250,000 sterling, and issue Provincial debentures bearing interest at 6 per cent. per annum, redeemable in thirty years. Mr. HOWE writes from England to Halifax that parties in London will take these Province debentures without guaranty, at 5 per cent.

A bill has passed the Nova Scotia House of Assembly, which qualifies every male inhabitant over twenty-one years of age to vote for members of the Legislature. This will enfranchise one-fourth of the population, who never could vote before.

THE NIAGARA ROUTE TO THE PACIFIC.—The arrangements for the transportation of passengers by this route are gradually approaching towards completion; and will soon be such as to add much to its desirableness. Three iron steamboats are building in Delaware for the Atlantic and Pacific Ship Canal Company, and will be shipped in the steamer of 4th of June for their destinations, so that they may be put together, to be ready for service by the 1st of July following. On the day last mentioned, steamships will leave both New York and San Francisco, forming, in connexion with these steamboats, a complete line of trans-continental communication. Each boat is 110 feet long, and very wide, capable of carrying 300 passengers. It is probable that two of them will run on the San Juan, as far up as the portage or rapids; the other from the portage to Nicaragua. From the latter point to San Juan del Sur, on the Pacific, a distance of twelve miles, a good mule road has been completed. The steamer *Director* which, at last accounts, was still running on the Lake, will very likely be kept as a reserve boat. [Journal of Commerce.]

We learn from Harrisburg that the Revenue Board of Commissioners adjourned on Friday. The total addition to the valuation of taxable property in the State of Pennsylvania, made by the present Board, is \$6,983,153, which will increase the income of the State some \$22,000 annually. The total increase of taxable property in the three years, from 1848 to 1851, thus adjusted, is \$29,858,371, yielding about \$65,000 revenue. The whole taxable property in the State, now reported by the Revenue Board, is \$492,999,920.

WASHINGTON.
"Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 1851.

IMPORTANT TREASURY CIRCULAR.

We invite attention to the Circular from the Treasury Department, as to the construction of the late act of Congress, generally known as "Hunter's Bill," on the subject of freight constituting one of the dutiable items in estimating the value of foreign merchandise. The question has elicited much interest in the commercial community; and we think it will be very generally conceded that the Department has, under all the circumstances of the case, come to a correct conclusion on the subject.

VIRGINIA DOING HERSELF JUSTICE.

We have never for a moment doubted the loyalty to the Union or the attachment to the Constitution of the body of the People of the State of VIRGINIA. Our readers will bear us witness that we have, on the contrary, affirmed it on all occasions, even when, from indications at the seat of Government of the State, and in the absence of information such as we had from different districts of its interior, doubts might well have been entertained.

All our confidence in the intelligence of the People of VIRGINIA is at length justified, and our brightest hopes realized, by the expression of their sober sense, through the popular branch of the Legislature, in the Resolutions which, with the account of their passage, we copy as follows:

FROM THE RICHMOND ENQUIRER OF MARCH 27.

VIRGINIA AND SOUTH CAROLINA.—We are gratified to announce that the resolutions reported on Monday from the Select Committee of Thirteen, were last evening adopted with remarkable unanimity by the House of Delegates. They define clearly and justly the position of Virginia. At 5 o'clock P. M., the house assigned for their consideration, the resolutions were taken up. Mr. Martz called for the previous question, which was sustained. Mr. Taliaferro asked the yeas and noes; and Mr. Dorman, for a separate vote on each resolution. During the vote, Mr. Harrison asked leave to make an explanation, and Mr. Tomlin moved to offer an amendment to the second resolution; but they were, each, overruled by the decision of the Speaker, sustained by the House, that the previous question applied to the whole series of resolutions. We republish them, with the vote on each:

WHEREAS the Legislature of the State of South Carolina has passed an act to provide for the appointment of delegates to a Southern Congress, "to be entrusted with full power and authority to deliberate with the view and intention of resisting further aggression, and, if possible, of restoring the constitutional rights of the South, and, if not, to recommend due provision for her future safety and independence," which act has been formally communicated to this General Assembly. [Agreed to without division.]

1st. Be it therefore resolved by the General Assembly of Virginia, That, whilst this State deeply sympathize with South Carolina in the feelings excited by the unwarrantable interference of the non-slaveholding States with our common institutions, and whilst diversity of opinion exists among the people of this commonwealth in regard to the wisdom, justice, and constitutionality of the measures of the late Congress of the United States, taken as a whole, and commonly known as the compromise measures, yet the Legislature of Virginia deems it a duty to declare to her sister State of South Carolina that the people of this State are unwilling to take any action (in consequence of the same) calculated to destroy the integrity of this Union.—[Ayes 110, noes 1—Mr. Harrison.]

Resolved, 2d. That, regarding the said acts of the Congress of the United States, taken together, as an adjustment of the existing questions to which they relate, and cherishing the hope that, if fairly executed, they will restore to the country that harmony and confidence which of late have been so unhappily disturbed, the State of Virginia deems it unwise (in the present condition of the country) to send delegates to the proposed Southern Congress.—[Ayes 110, noes 2—Messrs. Harrison, Butt, and Tomlin.]

Resolved, 3d. That Virginia earnestly and affectionately appeals to her sister State of South Carolina to desist from any meditated secession upon her part, which cannot but tend to the destruction of the Union, and the loss to all of the States of the benefits that spring from it.—[Ayes 114, noes 1—Mr. Harrison.]

Resolved, 4th. That Virginia, believing the Constitution of the United States, if faithfully administered, provides adequate protection to the rights of all the States of this Confederacy, and still looking to that instrument for defence within the Union, warned by the experience of the past, the dangers of the present, and the hopes of the future, invokes all who live under it to adhere more strictly to it, and to preserve inviolate the safeguards which it affords to the rights of individual States and the interests of sectional minorities.—[Ayes 118, noes none.]

Resolved, 5th. That all legislation or combinations designed in any way to affect the institutions peculiar to the South deserves the most unqualified reprobation, is derogatory to the rights of and peculiarly offensive to the Southern States, and must, if persisted in, inevitably defeat the restoration of peaceful and harmonious sentiments in these States.—[Ayes 118, noes none.]

Resolved, 6th. That the Governor of this Commonwealth be requested to transmit a copy of these resolutions to the Executive of the State of South Carolina, with the request that they be laid before her next Legislature, and that copies be also transmitted to the Executive of each of the other States of this Union—the State of Vermont only excepted.—[Agreed to without a count.]

The above resolutions have since passed the Senate, yeas 22, noes 4, after having been modified to read "unwarrantable interference of certain non-slaveholding States," and by striking out the part excepting Vermont from the States to which these resolutions are to be sent.

THE OHIO LEGISLATURE adjourned on Wednesday, having passed the Free Banking bill.

The Salem (Mass.) Register states that the publication of the laws of the United States has been transferred from the Portland Advertiser to the Christian Mirror. The former is a Free-Soil Whig paper, the latter a Congregational paper, which sustains the Constitution and Laws. So far as we know, it is the first instance in which the public advertising has been given to a religious newspaper. But probably the Government thought it was of no great use to publish the laws, UNLESS THEY WERE TO BE OBEYED.—[Journal of Commerce.]

ANOTHER ARRIVAL FROM EUROPE.

The Liverpool steamer *Canada* arrived at Halifax at midnight of Wednesday, with a week's later accounts from Europe.

The United States frigate *St. Lawrence* had arrived at Southampton, and proceeded to France. It is stated, for the remains of Capt. PAUL JONES. The better descriptions of cotton had declined an eighth of a penny in price, and lower qualities one-fourth. Breadstuffs were dull, without change in prices.

We give the remainder of the news in the language of our Telegraph despatch:

The Government of Lord JOHN RUSSELL is still very weak. He cannot get his friends to rally around him, and it is now confidently expected that there will be a dissolution of Parliament and a general election. The Ministry sustained another defeat upon the question of woods and forests. Lord DUNCAN moved a resolution demanding a reform in their management. The Government strenuously resisted. On a division, there appeared for the proposed reform 120—for Ministers 119; so, what with their partial abandonment of the Papal measure, their defeat upon Mr. LOCKE Kimo's motion of electoral form, and this defeat, it is thought they will not be able to hold together till after Easter.

The Times inserts frequent keen and sarcastic remarks on the present position of the Government. The Catholics, both in England and Ireland, are in great agitation relative to the final measures proposed by Lord John Russell. The Protectionist leaders are making a desperate effort to carry a majority of the Commons favorable to a duty of 4s. on corn, and 1s. on breadstuffs.

LETTER FROM GEN. SCOTT.—The following letter from Gen. WINFIELD SCOTT was addressed to the Whig committee of Milford county, in Pennsylvania, in answer to a series of resolutions adopted by them recommending him as a candidate for the Presidency of the United States. We have rarely seen any similar epistle conceived in better taste; and we must say that we consider its brevity not the least of its merits: